



June ASC Meeting: Our guest speaker is Austin photographer **Steven Schwartzman**. Here is Steven's Bio and some of his images:

I grew up on Long Island and went to college at Columbia University, where I majored in French. Upon graduation I spent 1968 and 1969 as a Peace Corps math teacher in Honduras; it was there that I learned the rudiments of photography and got my first "real" camera, a Pentax Spotmatic. In the late 1970s and early 1980s I did a fair amount of art photography and eventually published three books of 3-D infrared photographs. The combination of 3-D and black-and-white infrared was an unusual one but I was fond of it, at least in part because it was unique. My book *Bodies of Light* won an award from the Printing Industries of America in 1981.

I moved to Austin on July 6, 1976, two days after my birthday and the 200th anniversary of American independence. In my early years in Texas I did some landscape photography, still primarily in black and white infrared. I was an early adopter of digital photography: in 1999 I launched into a project to produce a photographic CD documenting the Austin area. In the process, I grew increasingly aware of and captivated by the many species of native plants that grow here; they became and remain my primary photographic subject.

In the years since then I've had the following native plant articles, including text and photographs, published:



Texas Highways, April 2002: "Speaking of Lesser-Known Texas Wildflowers"
Texas Highways, October 2003: "Second-Season Splendor"
Texas Highways, October 2007: "The Third Act"
Texas Prairie Journal, Spring 2008: "Dodder" (The cover picture is mine, even though it doesn't match the text of my article.)
Texas Highways, July 2010: "Some Like It Hot"
Wildflower (the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center), Summer 2011: "Get Low and Behold"
Wildflower, Fall 2011: "Fall Color in Central Texas" (forthcoming)

In 2007, *Parade* (the magazine that's included in many Sunday newspapers) ran a photo contest on the theme "Celebrate America's Beauty." There were more than 60,000 entries, and my photograph of a basket-flower ended up being one of a hundred finalists.

In 2008 *Popular Photography's* blog featured three of my photographs and commentaries on them. In 2009 and 2010 Quick Reference Publishing commissioned me to provide all the photographs and text for three laminated wildflower guides: North Texas, Central Texas, and Southeast Texas.

I've contributed over 200 photographs to the native plant database of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. In 2010 I won second place in the professional category of that institution's first-ever Wildflower Photo Contest.

My other interests include natural foods, mathematics, and language; with regard to that last subject I write a blog called *Spanish-English Word Connections*, where I manage to sneak in one of my nature photographs from time to time.

I've just begun an overt blog on nature photography at portraitsofwildflowers.wordpress.com.



June Meeting

Thursday, June 23, 2011 • 7:00 pm LCRA Redbud Building • 3601 Lake Austin Blvd.
(corner of Redbud and Lake Austin Blvd.) **Visitors are always welcome!**

May 2011 Evaluation and Critique
Judges were Rose Epps, Shirley Loflin and Phil Charlton

In the **General** category out of 17 entries 6 received top scores:



Snowy Egret Mating Dance
- 15 Dolph McCranie



Great Egret on a Cloudy Day - 15
Dolph McCranie



Roseate Spoonbill - 15
Beverly McCranie



The Walk - 15
Linda Sheppard



Dinosaurs - 15
Pete Holland



Cardinal-Denney Ranch 2 - 15
Paul Munch

In the **Assignment** category--**Black and White Architecture**, out of 23 entries 4 received top scores:



Gothic Splendor - 15
Barbara Hunley



Locked Out - 14
Mary Paige Huey



St. John's Church - 15
Rose Epps



Horse Tethering Rings &
Windows, Siena, Italy - 15
Lucy Durfee

July's Assignment - FALLING WATER - Waterfalls are one of the favorite subjects of most landscape photographers. Your assignment this month is to **capture an image of a WATERFALL that captures the essence of the movement of the water.** Whether you favor the slow shutter speeds that result in water that renders the silky (or cotton-candy) appearance, or the stop-action that results from high shutter speeds, get out in nature and give us your best shot! One more thing; should you be tempted to shoot Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece, the Kaufmann House, go right ahead. The waterfall below the house is fair game. Hint.

Lucy Durfee presented May's Member Moment
Here is an explanation of how she achieved her striking images

Table-Top Still Life

Lucy demonstrated her set up for table-top still life images.



Still life in your home is easy! Find a south facing window and place a small table about 2-3 feet from it. I like to use black velvet for my backdrop because it absorbs light and doesn't have reflections, glare, or a color cast coming from it. Here are a few images I showed at May's meeting.

The image on the left shows how I set up my table for shooting still life. To set up this shot I used black velvet for the backdrop, and a mirror on the table. I placed the table near a south facing window and positioned a small sheet of foam core on the opposite side to bounce some light into the shadows. The image on the right shows the final image after cropping the left and right sides.



In this next image I added Gaussian blur to give it a painterly effect. Here are the steps and layers I did in Photoshop to blur this image.



1. Copy Background layer (Cmd J)
2. Filter -> Blur -> Gaussian Blur at about 8 pixels
3. Rename to "Lighten Blur, 8 px"
4. Change blending mode to Lighten
5. Change Opacity to about 33%
6. Copy the Lighten Blur layer for same amount of blur (Cmd J)
7. Rename to "Darken Blur, 8 px"
8. Change blending mode to Darken
9. Change Opacity to about 66%
10. Go back to the Background layer
11. Sharpen -> Filter -> Sharpen -> Smart Sharpen; Radius 1.5 Amount ~ 60

12. To bring back some sharp areas:

1. Create a mask on both layers: Highlight both layers, Layer -> Group layers (Cmd G)
2. Add layer Mask
3. While on Mask, select brush tool and use black to brush areas for sharpness. Can lower opacity on brush to 50%

I enjoy the creativity still life photography allows. However, it does take some planning and pre-visualization. It is not like landscape and nature photography where you are usually photographing a pre-existing scene - you have to create the scene! It's a great project to get you out of the hot Texas summer heat!! So crank up the AC and let your imagination run wild!

Thanks,
Lucy

Photography Insights

by Brian Loflin

Poor Man's Macro

Because I produce a lot of macro and extreme close up images in my work, I have acquired several macro lenses ranging from 19mm to 200mm. Each has a specific job. So I am often asked, not only which is my favorite, but what macro lens should someone buy. So, I frequently tell my macro photography students not to run out and buy a macro lens right off the bat. I believe that after they complete my macro course, students will have a better understanding of the process, of the equipment and what lens may best fit their needs.

In the meantime, I illustrate several alternatives to expensive glass. The first is the one they may already have: their "kit lens", plus an accessory diopter lens.

To illustrate this arrangement for the class, I made this image of a small pair of poppy buds growing in my garden. To produce the image I went back to very basic equipment. I put the Nikkor 17-70 mm DX F 3.5-5.6 D "kit lens" on my 10 year-old Nikon D-70 D-SLR. To decrease the minimum focusing distance, I added a Canon 500D accessory diopter lens to the front and carefully composed. Because of the magnification, the camera is mounted on a tripod.



The image is made with natural sunlight as back light at 1/500 sec @ F8.0 and the camera's pop-up flash for fill. (ISO = 320; WB = Daylight "Sunny") To help the pop-up flash a bit, I used a sheet of plain white copier paper as a reflector, directing more of the light to the subject. For fill, I generally dial my flash intensity down to -0.7 F stop (sometimes a little more reduction) so as not to blow out the highlights. The image is shot as a JPEG, Large, Fine on that camera which produces a file of about 2.6 Mb.

This image is almost full-frame from the camera and final magnification in the camera is just about half-life size (0.5X).

There are many inexpensive solutions to achieving close up images in addition to this one that may be accomplished prior to purchasing the dream macro lens. The Canon 500D diopter, at \$150.00, is not the least expensive out there; yet it is a very good one. It is a compound, multi-element accessory lens that produces edge-to-edge sharpness. It simply screws on the front of your lens and, because it is optically clear, there is no light loss to deal with. These characteristics should be sought when purchasing a diopter close-up accessory lens.

Austin Shutterbug Club's 13th Birthday

was celebrated at May's meeting.

Thanks to Charlaine Mathews and
Bev McCranie for the delicious cake.

Photo courtesy Bev McCranie



Important! -- Please Note

FIELD TRIP CANCELLATION:

The ASC field trip to the Alkek Library on the campus of Texas State University at San Marcos has been cancelled due to building closure caused by construction. An alternate date possibly could be Saturday, July 9th, to be discussed at the ASC meeting on June 23rd. The Big Bend exhibit closes on July 16th.



Johnson City Scavenger Hunt images

June 30th is the deadline for the collection of images. CD's may be brought to the ASC meeting on June 23rd or mail your CD to Linda Sheppard, 8800 Mendocino Drive, Austin, TX 78735.

Please number the images--one from each category finished, matching the number to the list-- (1-15): category number, JC,-last name, first name, - month and year. Example: 01JC-LSheppard-0511. Resize the image according to ASC guidelines: long dimension,768 pixels at 72 ppi, jpeg, color space-sRGB.

Austin Shutterbug Club Meeting Minutes May 26, 2011

President, Brian Loflin, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Visitors were introduced and welcomed by all.

Brian explained the Austin Shutterbug Club mission. He told the group that the club is open to new ideas and innovations.

In the absence of Treasurer, Paul Munch, Brian explained the dues paying process and passed the envelope around the room. The club has \$4,717 in the bank account.

This evening's beverages are provided by John Baker. Bev McCranie and Charlaine Mathews each contributed to providing the ASC anniversary cake. ASC began in 1998.

Brian announced that tonight's Member Moment will be given by Lucy Durfee.

Events Coordinator, Lois Schubert, spoke briefly regarding the Johnson City scavenger hunt. Approximately 15 members attended. Lunch was at the Silver K Restaurant in Johnson City. Photos taken that day should be emailed to Linda Sheppard for the scavenger hunt competition.

Lois also announced that she and Linda are considering organizing a field trip to Texas State University in San Marcos to see an exhibit on Big Bend. Laurence Parent is one of the photographers in the exhibit. Details to be emailed.

Lois was contacted by the Austin Chamber Music Society. They're looking for a volunteer photographer to photograph guests and musicians on June 5th. Volunteers will receive 2 tickets to the July summer program.

Programs Chair and VP, Pete Holland, spoke briefly about next month's speaker, Steve Schwartzman, who has published two books. His photography includes stereo, black & white, infrared, macro, nature, wildlife and landscape.

Brian announced that if anyone is interested in participating in the 8th Annual Spicewood Arts Roundup, to get in touch with Phyllis Rummel for more information.

Brian announced that tonight was an Evaluation and Critique night. May's assignment was Black and White Architectural Detail. Apparently not many entries fit that exact description so judges Shirley Loflin, Rose Epps and Phil Charlton modified the assignment to just Black and White Architecture. Brian urged members in the future to make sure you understand the assignment and if you don't to call Fred Peebles or Brian Loflin for clarification.

Lucy Durfee shared several of her wonderful images in her Member Moment presentation. She shared her lighting set up for still lifes and her techniques in post processing. Brian thanked Lucy for her presentation.

Brian reminded the group to bring books for exchange. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Call for Entries

Texas Highways Magazine Want List

Deadline: July 1, 2011

For the fall color drives is looking for fall color in these areas:

- Canadian River
- Winnsboro and Daingerfield State Park
- Elgin-Lexington-Giddings (Yegua Knobs)
- Copper Breaks

These areas are the most important, anything close to these areas will be fine as well. If anybody has some shots send me some small jpegs to preview. If I select a photo I will need a high res. File by July 1st.

Thanks for your support, email images to:

J. Griffis Smith, Photo Editor

Texas Highways Magazine, 512-486-5870

Hill Country Photography Club and Hays County Master Naturalists announce the call for entries for the 7th Annual Naturescapes Photography Contest.

Entries accepted May 1 - July 11, 2011.

Details at: <http://hcphotoclub.org/naturescapes.html>

TPS20: The International Competition. Deadline: July 5, 2011. See TPS website for info. Show will be at the A Smith Gallery in Johnson City.

Call for Entries

A Smith Gallery in Johnson has a Call for entries:

"num6ers" Deadline August 16, 2011.

https://asmithgallery.com/Numbers_call_for_entry.php

For more "Call for Entries" see www.texasphoto.org/NatNewsCompetitions.html, The website of the Texas Photographic Society

Club Leadership for 2011

President	Brian Loflin	331-2820
Vice President/Programs	Pete Holland	689-5939
Secretary	Jane Guerin	261-3572
Treasurer	Paul Munch	836-6379
Competition Co-Chairman	Fred Peebles	441-7913
Competition Co-Chairman	Tom Delaney	266-6490
Competition Committee	Dolph McCranie	394-9031
Events Coordinator	Lois Schubert	947-4864
Events Coordinator	Linda Sheppard	306-1516
Hospitality Chairman	Phyllis Rummel	264-1412
Newsletter Editor	Kathy McCall	264-9602
Refreshments Chairman	Charlaine Matthews	418-9405
Refreshments Chairman	Bev McCranie	394-9031
Webmaster	Barbara Hunley	250-1144
Electronic Communication	Rose Epps	502-0608
Roster and Name tags	Rose Epps	502-0608